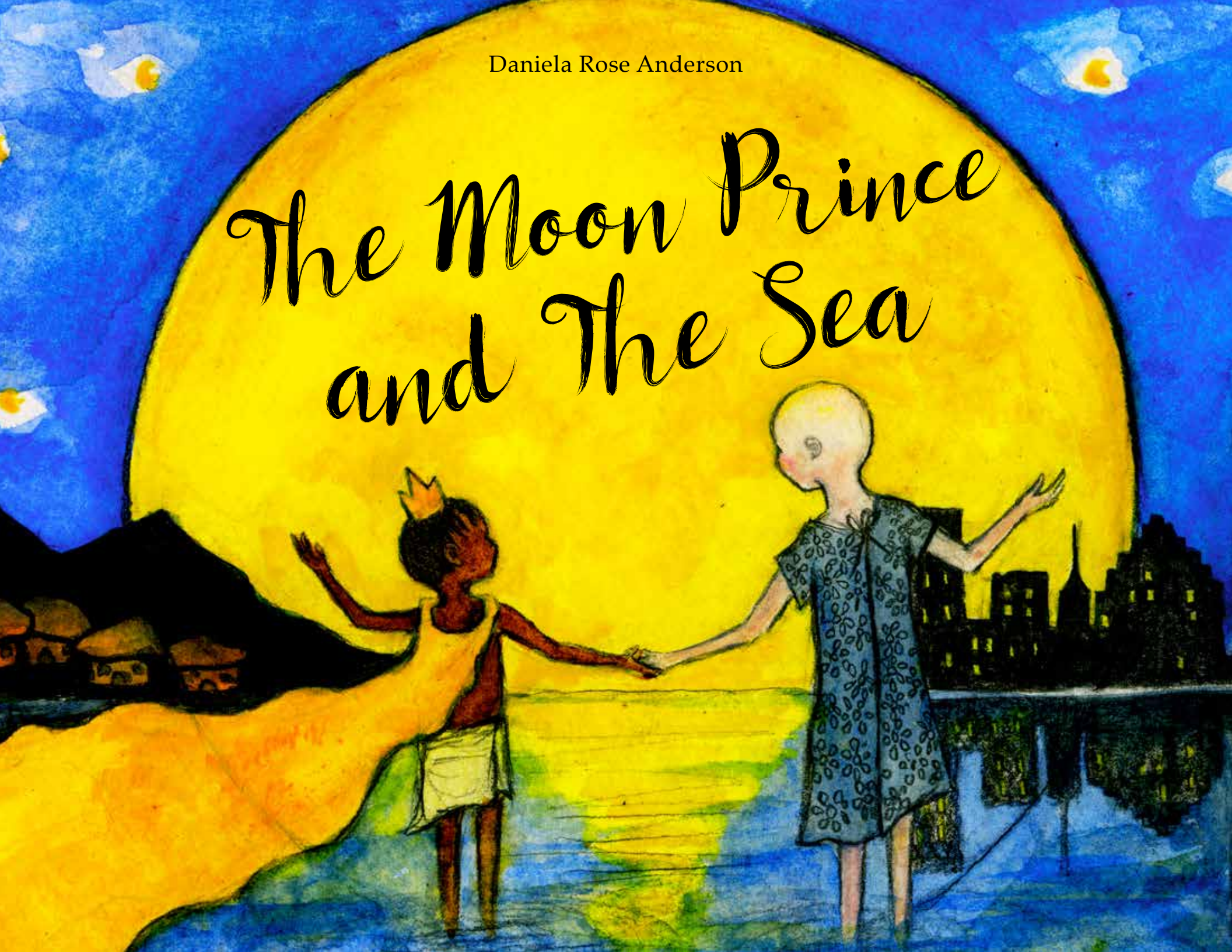


Daniela Rose Anderson

The Moon Prince and The Sea



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written and illustrated by Daniela Rose Anderson

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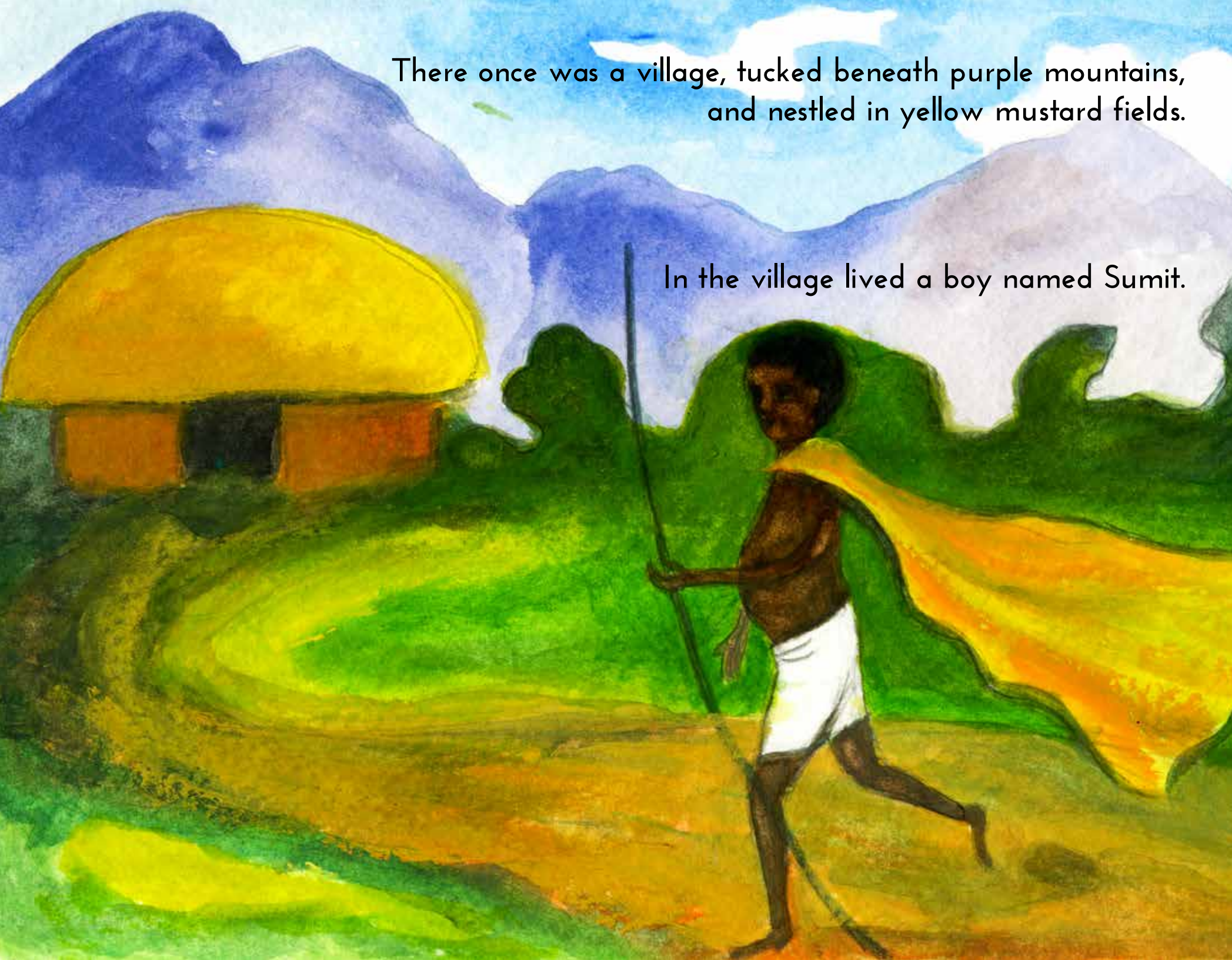
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There once was a village, tucked beneath purple mountains,
and nestled in yellow mustard fields.

In the village lived a boy named Sumit.



Sumit was a happy child. He tended his beans, played with his friends, and
loved to squeeze his baby water buffalo, Bhens, because they were the same size.

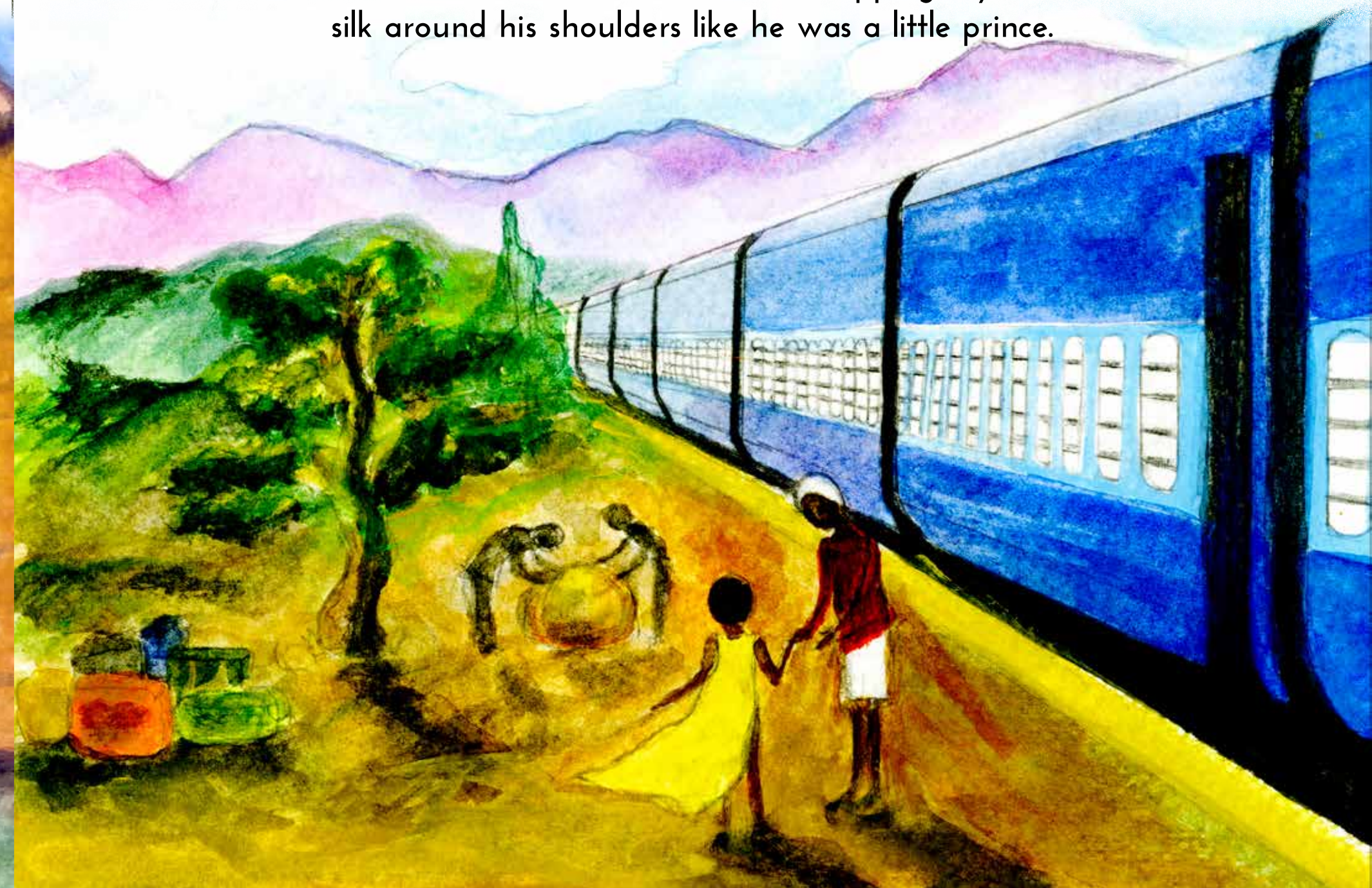


One day Sumit became sick. He could not tend to his beans,
or play with his friends, or visit Bhens.



"You are fading into *hava*, into wind," his Nana said sadly.

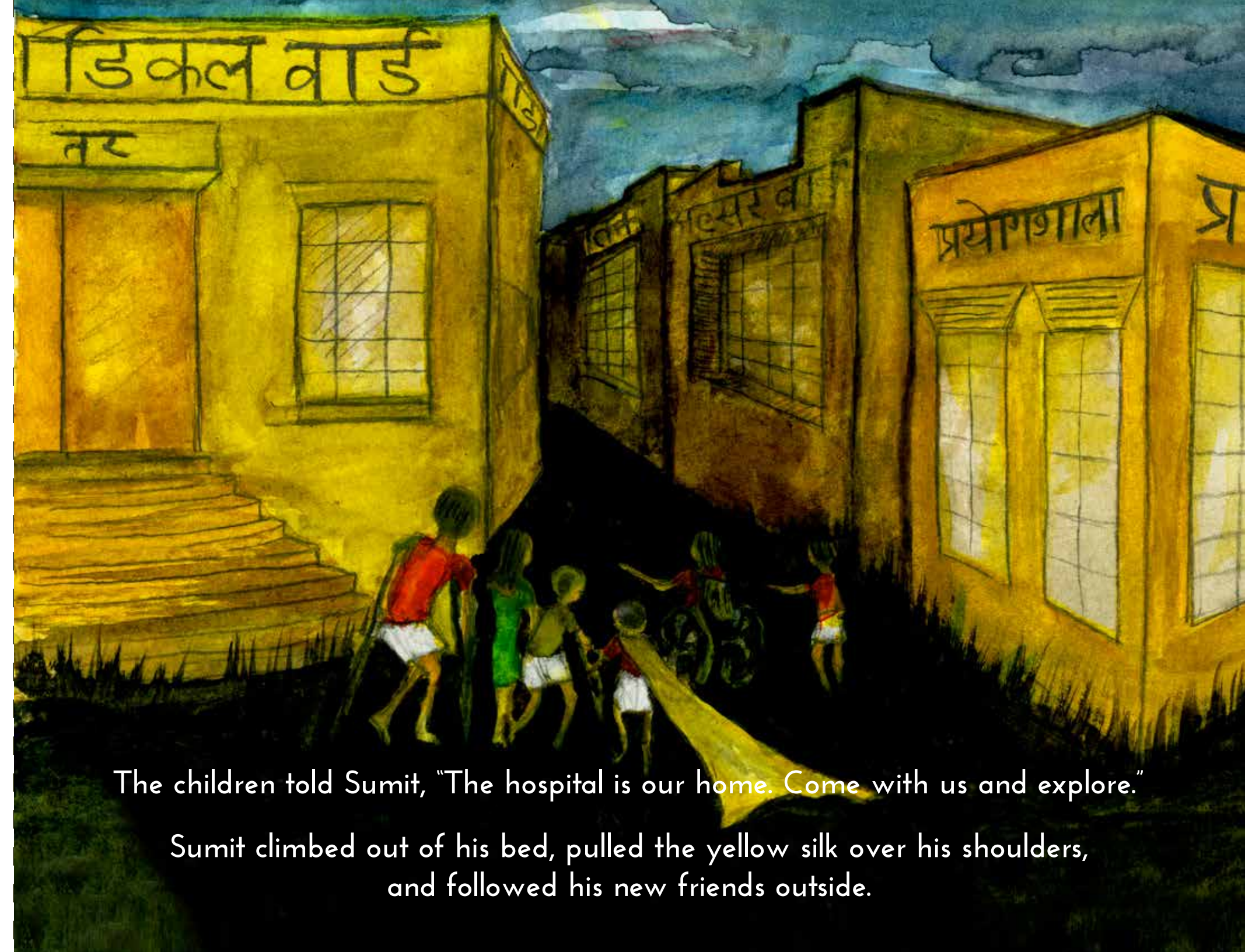
He led Sumit to the train station, wrapping a yellow
silk around his shoulders like he was a little prince.



After three days and three nights,
they reached the hospital.
The doctor performed tests
and gave Sumit medicine.



Sumit slept for many days.
When he woke, he felt better.
There were children
all around his hospital bed.



The children told Sumit, "The hospital is our home. Come with us and explore."

Sumit climbed out of his bed, pulled the yellow silk over his shoulders,
and followed his new friends outside.

They snuck into the hospital kitchen to eat *chapatis*, the warm fried bread they could smell all throughout the hospital.



The nurse taught them how to paint, and as they covered the hospital walls with colors, she told them stories from her home far away. Sumit's favorite story was about Marina, a young girl who lived in a hospital far across the ocean.



One night Sumit fell asleep
in the hospital temple
under a full moon.
He dreamt about Marina
in her hospital far away.



Marina looked sad as she peered
from her hospital window,
reaching out toward
the glowing yellow moon.

She could no longer play outside.

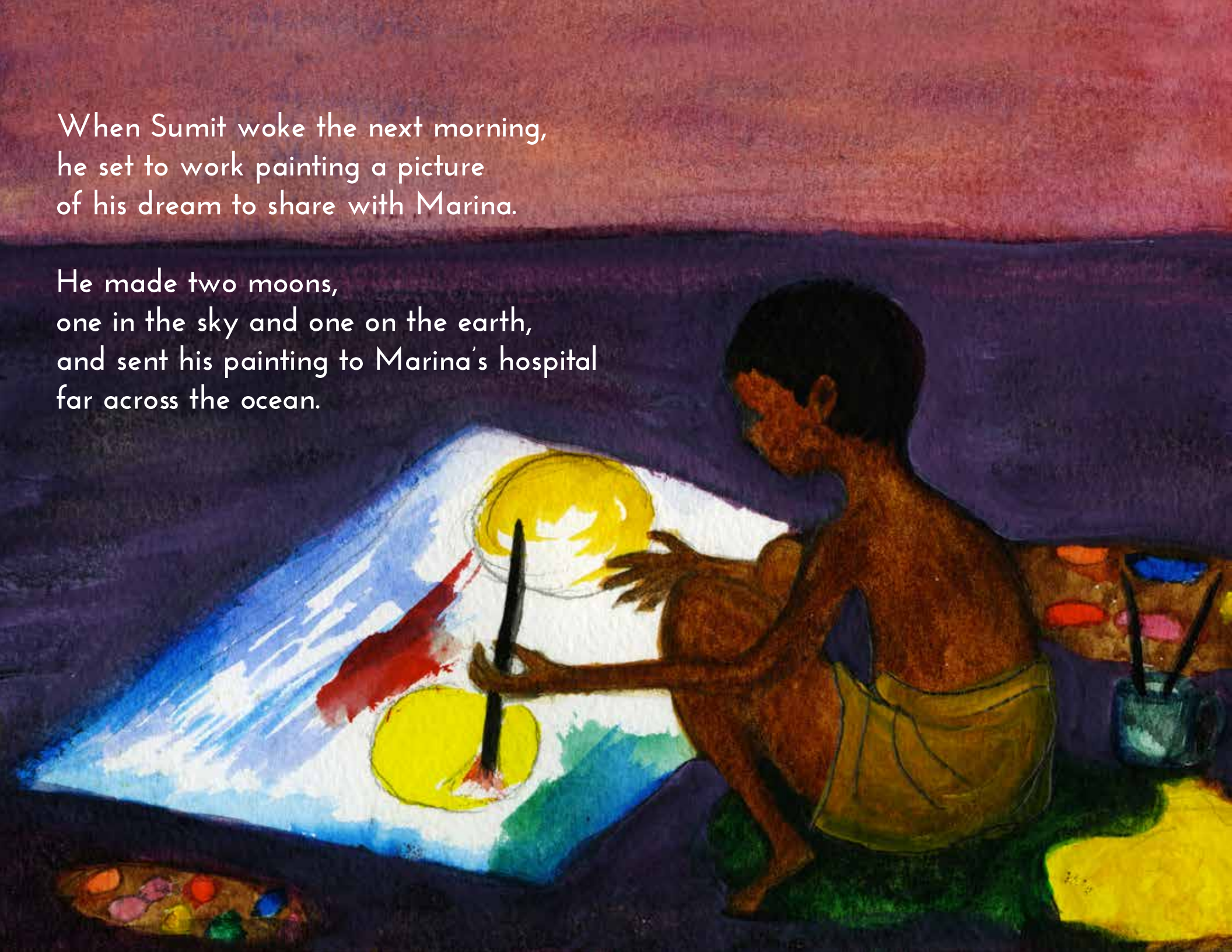
In Sumit's dreams beneath the moon, he saw Marina before she became sick.



She was
playing her violin
in the garden,
the bright sun
warming her skin,
and the bees buzzing
with her bow strokes.

When Sumit woke the next morning,
he set to work painting a picture
of his dream to share with Marina.

He made two moons,
one in the sky and one on the earth,
and sent his painting to Marina's hospital
far across the ocean.



When Marina received his letter,
she knew that it was special
and had come from far away.



DEAR MARINA
I AM SUMIT. I MADE
THIS TO TELL YOU THAT
IT IS OK. HERE IT
WILL BE GOOD.
LOVE, SUMIT

She smiled when she read Sumit's words.
She could step into the painting
with two moons and be free.